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CPYRGHT

STATINTL

ATTACHES DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA

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BEIRUT --

The case of Percy Allen, the British Army sergeant sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment last May for passing secret documents to Middle Eastern embassies in London, had a delayed sequel this week when Britain asked the U.A.R. and Iraq to transfer their military attaches in London. Both attaches were mentioned in the course of Allen's trial.

In reply, the U.A.R. declared the British military attache in Cairo, Brigadier H.J. Bartholomew, "unacceptable after September 21."

Commenting on the British decision to declare the U.A.R. military attache, Brigadier Mahmoud Hodeib, persona non grata, the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram said on September 11:

"The U.A.R. Government asked the British Government for proofs that their attache had anything to do with the Allen case, but the British did not give any proof. The U.A.R. Government then decided to take reciprocal action."

In the case of the Iraqi military attache in London, Lieutenant-Colonel Khalid Farid, the British Government set no time limit for his departure but merely suggested he should be transferred in the interests of Anglo-Iraqi relations.

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